

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed 3 May 2006 has been received.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 112:

Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Responsive to the examiner's remarks, applicant has amended claim 14 to clarify the term "surface1". Further applicant has amended claim 16 to remove the term "configured." In view of these considerations, applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the rejections under 35 USC 112 has been obviated. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests a withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC 112.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC 102:

Claims 1, 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Stone et al. Claims 1,3,4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Pipino. Claims 1, 2, 10 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over Stewart. Claims 1, 3, 10, 12-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) over Liu.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 3, and 4 has been obviated by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice.

In paragraph 11 of his Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 17, 18 and 20-26 would be allowable provided that these claims were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claim and any intervening claims. Consistent with the advice of the Examiner, applicant has amended these claims to place them in condition for allowance.

More specifically, applicant has amended Claim 5 to be in independent form. It follows that claim 5 should now be allowable. Claim 10 and Claims 1-16 have now been amended to depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 5. Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 10

and 12-16 should now be allowable for the same reasons which support the allowability of Claim 5 and furthermore in view of the additional limitations set forth in those claims.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitation of Claim 5 namely the requirement that the resonant optical cavity have a quality factor of least about 10^4 . Applicant respectfully submits that neither Stewart nor Liu teaches or suggests a resonant optical cavity which has a quality factor of at least 10^4 . Further given the indication of allowability of Claim 5 in view of this particular limitation, applicant submits that a method claim directed to a process for utilizing a structure which itself has been found to be patentable should likewise be patentable. In view of this consideration, applicant respectfully submits that Claim 19 should now be in condition for allowance.

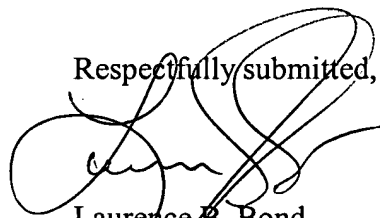
REJECTION UNDER 35 USC 103:

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Liu or Pipino. This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation without prejudice of these two claims.

CONCLUSION:

Applicant has amended the claims in an effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. In view of these amendments, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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